

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 COME-00

FRB-01 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-10 IO-10 L-03

H-02 /127 W

----- 018990

R 310938Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2496

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BANJUL 0430

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN XY GA

SUBJ: PRES JAWARA RETURNS FROM ECOWAS MEETING AT LAGOS

REF : LAGOS 5001

1. IN BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 30 AT STATE HOUSE, PRES JAWARA EXPRESSED UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR ECOWAS TREATY WHICH HE SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE GAMBIA AT LAGOS MAY 28. HE PLANNED TO SEEK EARLIEST POSSIBLE RATIFICATION BY GAMBIAN PARLIAMENT. PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED NIGERIA AND TOGO FOR THEIR INITIATIVES AND INDICATED THERE WAS NO REASON WHY MEMBERS OF CEAO OR OTHER SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS SHOULD NOT ALSO JOIN ECOWAS. KEY TO SUCCESS OF ECOWAS WAS POLITICAL WILL OF MEMBER STATES TO MAKE IT WORK, HE SAID, AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT THE WILL EXISTED.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, PRES JAWARA CAUTIONED AGAINST
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EXPECTING EARLY, DRAMATIC CHANGES BUT FELT IT REASONABLE

TO ANTICIPATE IMPROVEMENTS IN SUCH SPECIFIC AREAS AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AIR AND SHIPPING SERVICES WITHIN THREE TO FIVE YEARS. MORE COMPLEX FINANCIAL AND TRADE ARRANGEMENTS COULD TAKE TEN OR MORE YEARS, JUST AS THEY HAD DONE IN EEC. CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE OF TREATY WAS THAT A BEGINNING HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD MOVING OBSTACLES TO FREER TRADE, AND MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PERSONS AND TOWARD COOPERATION RATHER THAN RIVALRY.

3. JAWARA SAID ECOWAS TREATY WILL ENABLE THE GAMBIA, TOGETHER WITH NEIGHBORS TO POOL RESOURCES FOR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION, SHIPPING, COMMUNICATIONS AND IN VARIOUS AREAS OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT. FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES COULD EVENTUALLY BENEFIT THE GAMBIA BY DRAWING TOURISTS FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE. HE NOTED THAT TREATY PROVIDED FOR COMPENSATION TO STATES WHICH WERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND FOR ASSISTANCE TO LESS DEVELOPED MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT S PARTY WERE CONVINCED THAT SENEGAL WOULD FOLLOW LEAD OF IVORY COAST AND ADHERE TO TREATY AT AN EARLY DATE.
MCFARLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANJUL00430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750192-0295
From: BANJUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaacb.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 5001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRES JAWARA RETURNS FROM ECOWAS MEETING AT LAGOS
TAGS: ECIN, XY, GA, ECOWAS-ECON COMM OF WEST AFRICAN ST, (JAWARA, DAWDA K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006